



Envision Arlington Diversity Task Force

Date: Monday, December 14, 2020

Time: 6:45 - 8:45 PM

Location: Online, via Zoom

- 1. Zoom protocols**
- 2. Introductions and General well-being check-ins**
- 3. Approve October and November minutes (see attached)**
- 4. Requests for Co-sponsorship and Support:**
 - a. AFR Building Community Series (discussion and vote)**
 - b. MLK letter to School Committee**
- 5. Process recent special Town Meeting warrant articles**
- 6. Plan to create DTG subcommittees**

MINUTES

In attendance: Katell Guellec (chair), Chris DiMeo (notes), Lynette Culverhouse, Rebecca Gruber, Louise Popkin, Barbara Thornton, Laura Kissel, Jill Lewis, Marian Weisenfeld, Robin Gottlieb, Mona Manda, Kelly Eversole, Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, Anna Henkin, Elizabeth Dray, Anna Litten (joined at 7:30pm). Select Board member Len Diggins joined briefly before the beginning of the meeting to announce the Connect Arlington survey and invite people to participate.

Katell opened the meeting at 7:00pm with Zoom/Virtual Protocols and guidelines followed by introductions and brief sharing of religious/cultural/holiday observances by those in attendance.

Minutes for October and November, 2020 Minutes.

Rebecca Gruber moved to accept Minutes for October and November.

Second by Lynette Culverhouse

Accepted unanimously

Requests for Co-Sponsorship and Support

Arlington Fights Racism invited DTG to co-sponsor their Winter Community Conversation series – format designed to create safe space for community conversations and community building. Separate event designed to educate and empower community interaction/involvement with Town Government. First events were well attended and had representatives from numerous

faith communities and community groups in attendance. Lynette Culverhouse and Elizabeth Dray shared information and details of the events.

Marian Weisenfeld raised a concern for the group to consider when responding to requests for co-sponsorship and support: how can DTG best support the widest range of community projects, issues, and diversity & inclusion events while also remaining the most inclusive, accessible, and welcoming open forum/community group? Specifically, two distinctions were suggested for discussion: (1) The difference among the meaning of sponsoring, supporting, and communicating events, positions, or issues; and (2) The distinction between groups that don't provide money or create/fund a political platform and those that have similar aims and also provide financial support to back political candidates and slates of candidates.

The suggestion was made to provide clarity in DTG decisions and communications so that DTG can support AFR's Building Community & "Town Government 101" events while avoiding inadvertently excluding community members by appearing to support political actions.

The discussion concluded with the following votes being taken:

Discussion followed. Following 50 minutes of discussion, Chris DiMeo moved that DTG co-sponsor the events. Rebecca Gruber Seconded. Marian Weisenfeld moved to amend the motion to support the event, not co-sponsor, Barbara Thornton seconded. Vote on the amendment: 2 Yes, 7 No, 6 Abstain. The amendment failed. On the original motion: 8 Yes, 2 No, 4 Abstaining. Motion passed.

Anna Litten presenting project she is working on with DEI Director, Jill Harvey

They have acquired a public art platform to elevate voices in Arlington – Elevating Arlington Voices of Color. Vision is to offer a platform for POC to tell their stories along with guidance and assistance to help people tell their stories. Will launch with art and writing workshops – will be ongoing with no end date. Hoping that DTG will become an ally and supporter of this project. Lynette Benton is a writing teacher collaborating on the project. Will launch public-facing components in February 2021. DTG members asked Anna and Ms. Jill Harvey to return soon to a DTG meeting to share more information about this project. Anna will be asking DTG to support and collaborate with them on publicity.

DTG support for MLK Committee letter to School Committee– letter outlined concerns by the MLK Committee related to the School Committee's selection of new Superintendent.

Chris DiMeo moved that DTG ratify Katell Guellec's expression of support for the MLK Committee's letter to the School Committee. 9 yes, 4 abstaining.

Brief Discussion of crafting statement to help create safe spaces for marginalized participants in Community Conversations.

Several attendees discussed how this might be accomplished. There was a suggestion to create a shared definition of "safe space." People like the idea of perhaps DTG and AFR working together to create a statement.

Motion to adjourn at 9:10pm. Motion passed unanimously.

